



Fort Riley Post

Signing

Class on post helps
parents learn
communication
skill

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Wednesday, November 22, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

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Post, Army news briefs

Chapel services change times

The Protestant Liturgical congregation will be conducting their last service at 9 a.m. Nov. 26 at St. Mary's Chapel. The Contemporary Protestant chapel service held in Kapaua Chapel begins at 10:30 and runs to noon each Sunday.

Beginning Dec. 3, the Lutheran congregation will meet at St. Mary's Chapel at 9 a.m.

The Evangelical Protestant service discontinued service Nov. 19.

Bill funds post construction

WASHINGTON — The Senate last week passed its fiscal year 2007 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill that included \$472.2 million for Fort Riley.

The bill allocates \$16.3 billion for all military construction, \$77.9 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs and \$143.2 million for related agencies.

The bill lists the following Kansas projects as federal priorities:

- \$15 million for a battle seminar facility at Fort Leavenworth
- \$32 million for a barracks complex at Fort Riley
- \$5.2 million for a child development center at Fort Riley, and
- \$10.2 million for a vehicle inspection and cargo processing facility at Fort Riley.

In addition to these construction programs, the bill includes provisions that expand the healthcare benefits of all veterans.

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill now heads to a House-Senate conference committee where differences between the Senate and House versions will be worked out before the bill goes to the president for signature.

Stay in Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley. Tune in to Fort Riley cable channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. or watch "In Step with Fort Riley" at 5 a.m. every Saturday and at 11 a.m. most Saturdays on WIBW TV, Channel 13.

This week's show, which runs on WIBW TV Nov. 25 and on the post's cable channel 2 Nov. 27 through Dec. 1, includes:

- A story from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at the National Training Center
- 1st Infantry Division units get deployment orders
- Cantigny, Ill., and 1st Infantry Division Museum Veterans Day ceremony
- The Native American Heritage observance on post
- The first buffer zone agreement between Fort Riley and an adjacent landowner

Soldier earns medal saving lives

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Spec. Ronnie Wheat wears a Combat Action Badge, proof he survived a life-threatening encounter while deployed in Iraq.

Now he wears a Soldier's Medal, proof the 70th Engineer Battalion Soldier helped save two civilians from a life-threatening accident on a highway between Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Col. Norbert Jocz, 3rd Brigade commander, presented the medal Nov. 17 in front of a battalion formation on the Kodiak Parade Field on Custer Hill.

"It's pretty neat," the Oklahoma native said about getting the medal. "I never expected to get anything like this."

The Army awarded Wheat the medal because he and a fellow Soldier rescued two people trapped in a burning pickup that had been involved in an accident in April 2004.

A third person in another vehicle died at the scene.

Driving back to Fort Benning after visiting a friend at Fort Leonard Wood, Wheat and his buddy came upon an accident involving the pickup pulling a 16-foot flatbed trailer and a car. The pickup rolled down a hill and caught on fire, Wheat recalled.

Wheat turned his car around and went back to assist, he said. "Two guys were in the (truck) screaming, and we kicked the windshield out and pulled them out" before the truck

exploded in flames, he said.

"I just reacted without thinking," Wheat said, thinking about whether any Army training had helped him save the two men.

The accident happened shortly after Wheat completed basic training and Advanced Individual Training. "So I was a little bit more on the ball," he said.

Their quick response made a difference, Wheat said. "The two guys were OK. I got a note from their family; they wrote me a letter."



Spec. Ronnie Wheat

Seeing 1st-hand

Community leaders view 4th Brigade in training

By Alison Kohler

Asst. Community Relations Officer

For those who spent time at the National Training Center as a Soldier, the changes were remarkable.

"I was here about 20 years ago in the military. Nothing seems to be the same. I guess the desert is the same," said retired Col. Ed Burke, executive director of the Society of the First Division.

Burke and nine community leaders traveled to the NTC at Fort Irwin, Calif., with Maj. Gen. Carter F. Ham, commanding general of 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, and a contingent of public affairs staffers Nov. 12-14 to observe the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team training.

Another attendee, retired Lt. Gen. Dick Seitz, said he visited the NTC on a trip with community leaders about 10 years ago. "It sure has changed," Seitz said.

One of the most significant changes they experienced was in the learning process. "Instead of pointing out deficiencies, they ask, 'how do we prepare this unit for an upcoming deployment,'" Ham said.

On Nov. 17, the 4th IBCT received orders to deploy in the next rotation of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "It's sooner than anticipated," Ham said.

Several community leaders said the operation was impressive. "I can see it's important that information flows in all



PAO/Blackmon

Honey Grant, general manager of City Cycle Sales in Junction City, takes a look at 1st Bn., 28th Inf.'s remote-controlled IED finder during a visit to NTC Nov. 13. Pic. Jason Freed of Co. D, 1st Bn., 28th Inf., looks on.

See NTC visit, Page 3

Robert Munson (left), Junction City Central National Bank president, visits with Bassam Kalasho, deputy mayor of Camp Junction City at the National Training Center Nov. 13.

PAO/Blackmon



Connie Hall, director of the Junction City-Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau, samples kuskus at the National Training Center Nov. 13.

PAO/Blackmon

Division units headed to Iraq

By Master Sgt. A.C. Glenn
1st Inf. Div.

The Department of Defense announced Nov. 17 deployment orders for several units of the 1st Infantry Division as part of the next Operation Iraqi Freedom rotation.

Pinpointed units include the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the Combat Aviation Brigade, Headquarters of the 1st Inf. Div. Sustainment Brigade, 24th Transportation Company, and 2-2 Heavy Equipment Transportation Detachment.

While specific timelines were not disclosed for security reasons, officials expect deployments will begin in early 2007 and last for one year.

The 4th IBCT activated in January as a light infantry brigade and has been training at Fort Riley the past year. About 3,000 4th IBCT Soldiers are training at the National Training Center, Fort

See Deploying, Page 2

Policy allows black boots

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army announced Nov. 14 that in certain geographic areas for the next six months, the black, Intermediate Cold Wet Boot will be authorized for wear with the Army Combat Uniform in lieu of the tan ICWB, which is currently in short supply.

"The temporary policy affects Soldiers in cold regions of the continental United States, Korea, Europe and Alaska," said Sgt. Maj. Katrina Easley, branch chief for Uniform Policy at Army G1.

The policy "will ease short-term demands and allow the supply system time to meet worldwide requirements," she said.

The first version of the ICWB, a black boot fielded in the early 1990s, filled the void between the standard-issue leather combat boots and the extreme cold weather "Mickey Mouse" boots. All versions of the ICWB allow Sol-

82nd Med. Soldiers receive medals

By Spc. Stephen Baack
1st Inf. Div.

More than 150 Soldiers of 1st Infantry Division's 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) were recognized during the company's redeployment awards ceremony at McCain Auditorium on the Kansas State University campus

Nov. 16.

Retired Lt. Gen. Richard Seitz, a Kansas native who was the youngest infantry battalion commander during World War II and who retired in 1975 as commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, N.C., pinned 13 Bronze Stars, one Purple Heart, two Meritorious Service Medals, 138 Air Medals, 66 Army Com-

mandation Medals and more than 50 Army Achievement Medals on the chests of the company's Soldiers.

Seitz, who has two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart and an Air Medal, among other awards, was guest speaker for the ceremony.

"I'm overwhelmed at the thought of finding adequate words to tell you how great you really

are, and really there are no words that could explain the admiration, the respect that we have for each and every one of you great Americans."

Maj. Dustin Elder, commander of the 82nd Med. Co. (AA), also spoke at the event. Elder told of how, at the end of the company's

See 82nd Med., Page 10

See Boots, Page 2





Post, Army news briefly

Still time for ed. needs survey

About one week remains for Soldiers, retirees, family members and Army civilians at Fort Riley to complete a survey that will indicate the educational needs for Fort Riley students.

To voice your educational interests and goals, go to <https://surveys.ksu.edu/TS?offeringId=57579> on the Web by Nov. 30.

Field House closed for work

King Field House will be closed through Thanksgiving Day. Sealing and painting of lines on the gym floor will cause fumes that are a safety hazard.

Vehicle office plans closing

The Fort Riley Vehicle Registration Office will be closed Nov. 23-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The office also will be closed Nov. 27 for mandatory employee training.

The office will reopen at 8 a.m. Nov. 28.

Special Forces seeks officers

U.S. Army Special Forces is seeking male officer volunteers from Year Group '04. Officer packets will be accepted until Feb. 15, but early submission is strongly recommended.

For more information, go to <http://www.bragg.army.mil/specialforces/>.



4th IBCT/Smith
Soldiers of Co. C, 610th BSB, evacuate a casualty during trauma lanes at the NTC Nov. 9. Soldiers of Cos. A and B, 610th BSB, accompanied the "Centaurians" to assist with security. The 4th IBCT is at the NTC this month, training before its announced deployment to Iraq in 2007.

4th IBCT 'Centaurians' train for combat medic duty

By Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4th IBCT

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — When a 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldier goes down on the battlefield, Company C medics will be the first ones called.

Co. C, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, medics stand ready to risk their own lives in order to save those of their fellow "Dragons," and they're getting some taste of what that could be like in Iraq while at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., this month.

The "Centaurians" of Co. C will take the lead in returning wounded and injured Soldiers to battle-ready status. They are using their

time at the NTC to hone the skills they will need to do that once the brigade deploys to Iraq sometime in 2007.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Miller, the treatment platoon sergeant, said the unit's rotation at the NTC helps the "Centaurians" fulfill their mission by providing the opportunity for all elements to train together.

"We're bringing all our assets together at once," Miller said, "and we're training as a unit as we would (operate) when we deploy. For us to be able to fulfill our mission, we have to train together."

A treatment platoon, an evacuation platoon and a headquarters platoon make up the company.

Before July, when much of

their equipment arrived, the company had been concentrating on basic soldiering skills. With the equipment arrival, the training focus switched to what Co. C would do as a combat medic unit, he said.

Once deployed, Co. C will be responsible for treating U.S. Soldiers, Coalition counterparts, civilians and even enemy prisoners of war, Miller said.

Because of Co. C's placement in a light infantry brigade, the "Centaurians" do not get the same amount of equipment or facilities as a regular medical unit.

However, the company still fulfills its mission, which is what sets it apart from other medical units, Miller said.

Fort Jackson to get national cemetery

By Carrie David Ford
Army News Service

Fort Jackson, S.C., has been selected as the site for a new national cemetery to be established as a result of the National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003.

The announcement by South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson and Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs William F. Tuerk came during the city of Columbia's Veterans Day Parade Nov. 10.

Construction is slated to begin

in fiscal year 2008 with interments beginning about a year after that.

The new act directs the secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery in the Greenville/Columbia area. The planned location of the cemetery is the northern point of Fort Jackson, near Percival Road.

"It's a beautiful piece of land. It's near I-20, but not too near," Tuerk said. "We can get traffic from the interstate without the noise, and it's close to the population center."

Deploying continued from page 1

Irwin, Calif., but will return to Fort Riley by the end of November.

The CAB began arriving at Fort Riley in July 2006 and has been training on post since its arrival. It will deploy with about 2,600 Soldiers.

Headquarters of the 1st Div Sustainment Bde. also began arriving in July and is scheduled to deploy with about 250 Soldiers.

This will be the third OIF deployment for the 24th Trans. Co., and the 2-2 HET Det. The 24th Trans. Co. will deploy with 150 Soldiers. The 2-2 HET will deploy with 50 Soldiers.

During the deployment, Fort

Riley will continue building at a brisk pace. Fort Riley has scheduled more than \$330 million in construction this year to meet the demands of housing the estimated 18,300 Soldiers, who will be assigned to the post once the 1st Inf. Div. is fully formed.

While Soldiers are deployed, families will be provided full support from Fort Riley and the 1st Inf. Div. Fort Riley's state-of-the-art Soldier and Family Readiness Center serves as a central support center for families of deployed Soldiers.

Each unit also has a formal Rear Detachment Command that will oversee all unit support functions at Fort Riley.

Boots continued from page 1

diers' feet to breathe and keep warm while operating in cold, wet environments.

Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston said that suppliers are working to get the new tan ICWB fielded as soon as possible.

"We do not want Soldiers to suffer through the winter months with their summer, light-weight tan boots," said Preston.

The temporary exception to policy is expected to last through April 2007, and allows Soldiers in

the designated areas to wear the black ICWB with the ACU immediately.

HOUSE FILL AD

ARMED FORCES COMMUNICATIONS
6 x 10.5"
Black only
684372 PU 11/10 armedforcesins



Community leaders visit with Soldiers in charge of the Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle system.

PAO/Blackmon



PAO/Blackmon

Pfc. Jeremy Rettig, A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 4th Cav., shows how a UAV is tracked on a computer while Connie Hall (left), Honey Grant (rear) and Daily Union Publisher John Montgomery look on.



PAO/Blackmon

Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, commander of 1st Bn., 28th Inf., talks with retired Col. Ed Burke (left) and Robert Munson (center) during Fort Riley's VIP visit to NTC Nov. 13.

NTC visit

continued from page 1

directions," said Ron Fehr, Manhattan city manager.

Honey Grant, general manager at City Cycle Sales in Junction City, said the training was amazing. "They've done a lot of scenario planning. They try to be as realistic as possible. They are thinking of everything. It's very complex," Grant said.

One of the activities the group participated in was a visit to a mock Iraqi village named Junction City. The role players in the village were 70 percent Sunni and 30 percent Shia. The deputy mayor, Bassam Kalasho, said he had been at the National Training Center off and on for about two years.

"When the Soldiers go over there, they have to face us. We have been doing it so long, we are professionals," Kalasho said. "They used to kill me every day." He was referring to signals released when weapons firing laser beams set off the buzzers on the training gear he was wearing.

The group visited another village named Medina Jabal located in the center of the training area. Medina Jabal translates to Tiefert City and then loosely to capital city.

The mayor did not speak English fluently, so he led the group on a tour with an interpreter.

"This is a mosque that was

destroyed by terrorists. American forces are helping us rebuild it," the mayor said through his interpreter.

The brigade conducted an after-action review the group was allowed to watch from a meeting room at a distant location.

"We're all about learning here," said Col. Steven Salazar, commander of the operations group at NTC. "Despite the fact we have young Soldiers out there, they're really getting after it," he said.

The 4th IBCT's Special Troops Battalion owned four explosive ordnance disposal teams that had encountered eight improvised explosive devices in the previous 72 to 96 hours.

"Every minute we can give a company commander out there is a benefit," said Lt. Col. Pat Frank, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, commander.

Ham said the Soldiers would be able to do things in Iraq and Afghanistan they have already done. "Besides actually bleeding, (they've) done it before in a compressed amount of time," Ham said.

Although the brigade will spend about 30 days at the NTC for their rotation, Ham said there are about 14 days that are intense.

"I'm sure they learn a hell of a lot," Burke said.



PAO/Blackmon

Honey Grant (wearing cap), City Cycle Sales general manager, talks with Iraqi women from Camp Junction City Nov. 13 at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE &
LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
btd.5 Prairie Hawk New TF

ALLSTATE INSURANCE
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
btd.5 allstate.10/

CARNAHAN CREEK TREE SERVICE, I
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3 Carnahan Tree Svc

STANDARD PLUMBING
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WATERS TRUE VALUE-MANHATTAN ST
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GEARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-JUNCTION C
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Black Only
3x6COC11/24redstockingsmall



Gen. Pace talks about deployment needs

Joint staffs chairman: Changes in force structure should mean more predictable call-ups

By Donna Miles
AFPS

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo — Changes being made in the way the force is structured, trained and deploys ultimately will mean fewer deployments and more predictability for individual troops, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told National Guardsmen Nov. 14 during a town hall meeting in Kosovo.

Marine Gen. Peter Pace told about 500 National Guard troops wrapping up a year-long deployment with Kosovo Force 7 the most important thing the military can offer them is a basic idea of when and how frequently they'll be called up for duty.

Questions from the group focused on the frequency and length of National Guard deployments, as well as train-up time between mobilization and deployment. This pre-deployment training typically brings Guardsmen's full active-duty time to 18 to 24 months.

Benchmark: 1 year deployed, 2 at home

Pace said the benchmark he'd like to see on the active force is a one-year deployment, followed by two years at home station before deploying again. For Guardsmen and reservists, the ideal would be five years at home between one-year deployments, he said.



AFPS/Cullen

Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, talks with Soldiers after a town hall meeting at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Nov. 14.

Efforts under way are helping make this goal achievable, Pace said. The Army is building its active brigade combat teams from 33 to 42, and now has 36, he noted. At the same time, the National Guard is reducing from 34 brigades that weren't totally manned or equipped to 28 brigades that will be, he said. These initiatives will provide

18 to 19 Army brigades, as well as one or two Marine regimental combat brigades, ready to deploy at any given time. Pace said this would ensure a sustainable tempo for troops that matches his deployment benchmarks.

The problem for now, he said, is that current operations require 25 brigade-size units at a time. That demand will require more

frequent deployments until the force restructure is completed, he said.

Another problem is that many Guardsmen and reservists needed for these rotations already volunteered for deployments in the early days of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Deploying volunteers as individuals, rather than calling entire

units to duty involuntarily, "made really good sense — until Iraq came along," he said. "And then we needed units in Iraq."

Many troops in those units already had served voluntary deployments in Afghanistan, so they weren't required to deploy again. That left holes in their units that had to be filled by pulling troops from other units, he said, solving the short-term problem but exacerbating the long-term one.

"We're up now, after doing this for four or five years, to having some units having to pull from seven, eight or nine different units to kludge together the unit you need," Pace said. "We need to stop that. And we need to stop it on a predictable basis."

Pace said the best way to do that is to "reset the clock and do it properly."

Guard, reservists would know when

Every Guardsman and reservist would be told "where you are in your cycle, when you are going to be eligible to go for one year and when you're not going to be eligible for the next five years," he said.

The cycle would continue, regardless of whether a deployment-eligible troop actually deployed. "And we'll just keep the cycle going so that trainers, recruiters, everybody in the unit understands when you are eligible to go and when you're not," he

said. This predictable timeline will help Guardsmen and reservists tailor their time between deployments to hone skills they will need for their next deployment, the chairman said.

In doing so, he said, they can reduce the training they need after they're mobilized for that deployment and speed up the timetable, he said.

"Nirvana for me would be that you have four to six weeks of active duty at home before you went, because you would have already been trained up well enough and all you'd have to do is get out and do your final touches before you fought," he said.

This would be a win-win situation, the chairman said. "If we need you quickly for something, you'll be available more quickly," he said. And troops will have the advance notice they deserve to plan, prepare and plan for a deployment.

Pace emphasized that while this formula would work well for routine missions that can be planned ahead, it won't necessarily work in cases "where something strange happens in the world and we need more troops."

When that happens, "we just fight the nation's battles," he said. "But we can give you a predictability of when your unit would be subject to mobilization and activation. And then, if the nation needs more than 20 brigades at a time, we would have to dip into the rest of the pool."

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DILARES - AFC
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Post, Army news briefly

Dining hall serves families

The Main Post Dining Facility is now open to families on Saturdays and Sundays. Cost for family members will be the same as for Soldiers on Separate Rations.

Breakfast hours are 7:30 to 9 a.m. both days.

Lunch hours are noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

Dinner hours are 4 to 5:30 p.m. each day.

Classes teach prevention

The Fort Riley Suicide Prevention Program will conduct Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training classes monthly now through March.

Classes are scheduled Dec. 11-12, Jan. 18-19, Feb. 15-16 and March 8-9.

The two-day classes will be taught in the basement classroom at Riley's Conference Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

For more information, call Charles E. Jackson, Fort Riley suicide prevention training coordinator, at the Family and Soldier Support Center, 239-9434 or 239-1012.

Post graduation set at Riley's

Fort Riley military personnel, family members and civilian personnel who are graduates of local colleges or SOCAD college programs are invited to participate in the Fort Riley post-wide graduation center at 1 p.m. Dec. 13 at Riley's Conference Center.

For more information, call Ms. Adelina Morales at 239-6481.

Health fair scheduled

The 2007 Open Season Health Benefits Fair is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 30 in Riley's Conference Center.

FEHB Plan representatives will be on-site to answer questions, provide information and distribute open season health care packets.

Occupational Health representatives also will be on-site to give free blood pressure checks.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3 1st Baptist Church

ALEX'S AFFORDABLE EYE-WEAR
1 x 4"
Black Only
1x4 Alex's Mv TF



Soldiers of Btry. A, 2nd Bn., 122nd FA, Illinois National Guard, fire a 21-gun salute in honor of Veteran's Day.

Vets add battle streamers to 'Big Red One' colors

By April Blackmon
Com. Rel. Officer

In 1917, the 1st Infantry Division earned the first of 38 battle streamers for its gallantry under fire.

Some 89 years later, veterans, family members and friends gathered to finally place the streamers on the 1st Division Museum's "Big Red One" flag and to honor the service of Soldiers past and present.

"We never forget that we stand on the shoulders of giants," said guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourman, 1st Inf. Div. command sergeant major, at the Nov. 11 ceremony in Wheaton, Ill.

"And let there be no doubt that your Army is strong (today)," he added.

First Inf. Div. veterans of each of the major conflicts and their relatives were represented. About 400 people attended the ceremony.

"Our main focus is to try and show the public a little more about the military," said Mike Goodale, public programs manager at the 1st Division Museum. It was also a time to bring veterans together to honor them for their

service, he said.

WWII veterans Bill Moreland and Eddie Ireland said they were honored to place the Division's WWII streamers on the flag. The two were veterans of the 745th Tank Battalion, which fought during the D-Day invasion at Normandy.

"Today's event was just great," Ireland said. "I'm sure glad they gave us a call to let us know about this event."

"But our thoughts (on Veteran's Day) go back to more with who we lost," Moreland added. "And you do think of the ones no longer with us."

For Sgt. Don McDonald of

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Inf. Div., the ceremony was a chance to serve and remember. McDonald and other Soldiers from HHC served as the ceremony's color guard.

"Every time I'm at a ceremony, I think of my grandfather who was in the military," he said. "He's not here but I know he's looking down and I want him to be proud (of me)."

As part of the ceremony, artillerymen of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery, Illinois National Guard, based in Sycamore, Ill., fired a 21-gun salute with 105mm howitzers.



WWII veteran Bill Moreland (center) places campaign streamers on the 1st Inf. Div. flag while Sgt. Tony Genovesi, C Troop, 106th Cav., Illinois National Guard, assists.

PAO/
Blackmon



PAO/Blackmon

WWII veterans Bill Moreland (left) and Eddie Ireland (center) talk with a veteran from the Netherlands Nov. 11 at the 1st Infantry Division Museum at Cantigny, Ill. Moreland and Ireland served with the 745th Tank Battalion during the war.

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Black Only
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4X4 LAND, INC.
3 x 2"
Black Only
3x2 4x4 Land Mv TF

ADVANCED DENTALARTS
3 x 5.5"
Black Only
3x5.5 AdvDent. Nov TF

THE COLUMBIAN THEATER
2 x 8.5"
Black Only
2x7 Columbian Christmas



'Finishing school' preps transition teams

By Sgt. 1st Class J. Schwind
USCENTCOM

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — It's not your typical backdrop for a finishing school: sand, equipment and up-armored "Humvees." The Phoenix Academy at Camp Taji, Iraq, also referred to as the "Finishing School," provides transition teams with final formal and refined training before they spend up to a year embedded with the Iraqi security forces.

"Our overall strategy in Iraq, as you've heard the president say many times, is that we're going to stand up the Iraqi security forces; and, as they do, we'll stand down. This transition team concept is an integral part of our entire strategy," said Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commanding general of Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

As the final formal training for the teams, the Phoenix Academy builds on the generalized Iraq information, maneuver training and basic combat skills of the first three phases and focuses on specific advanced instruction. Its curriculum includes counter-insurgency, ethics, communications equipment and tracking devices. Transition teams who are finishing their tours also come in to speak about lessons learned in their areas of operation.

"The Phoenix Academy is our last chance to work with them on the advisory skills, cultural skills and organization of the Iraqi Security Forces to make them aware of the situation in the specific area they're going to," said Army Lt. Col. Kevin West, training officer for the IAG.

"This is the phase in which they receive all the advanced instruction that they require for mission success once they depart here," said Phoenix Academy Commandant Marine Lt. Col. John R. Studt. "This is the final place they go to before they actually proceed out in the field to begin their mission with their respective Iraqi counterparts."

The transition team mission is to advise, coach, teach and mentor the ISF. They are sourced by all four military services, although Soldiers and Marines primarily make up the teams.

To prepare for their advisory roles, teams go through five training phases. Even before leaving home station, they complete the first phase, which consists of mandatory read-ahead material.

Phase two, lasting 45 to 60 days, is focused on manning and equipping the teams, as well as training them on topics such as language, combat skills, force protection and team support processes. Phase two training is conducted at Fort Riley, Kan., for Army, Navy and Air Force personnel and at Twentynine Palms and Camp Pendleton, Calif., for Marines.

After stateside training is complete, the teams travel to Camp Buhairah, Kuwait, for five days of in-theater orientation. The Phoenix Academy is the fourth phase, lasting eight to 10 days. Finally, the transition teams enter a 10-day "left seat/right seat" phase in which they overlap with the 10- to 15-member Military Transition Team, Border Transition Team or National Police



CENTCOM/Schwind

Army Capt. Cory Scott adjusts the antennae of a radio during a class at the Phoenix Academy at Camp Taji, Iraq, where transition team members receive final advanced training before beginning their work with their Iraqi Security Force counterparts.

Transition Team they will replace, as well as meet their Iraqi counterparts.

With the command emphasis that is clearly placed on the transition team mission, the training at the Phoenix Academy receives close attention too. The commanding generals of MNF-I,

Multi-National Corps-Iraq and the IAG schedule visits to address each transition team at the academy.

"I think it's very important — the fact that the senior leadership here ... takes the time to personally brief the transition teams coming through the Phoenix Academy," said Army Brig. Gen. Dana J.H. Pittard, commanding general of the IAG. "Part of this is to make sure everyone knows how important that mission is. Our embedded transition teams truly are the decisive effort."

During his visits to teams at the academy, the MNC-I commanding general, Army Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, provides an overview of the current battlefield situation and emphasizes the importance of establishing relationships with the Iraqi forces by embedding with them.

"What you really have to do in this country is try to win their trust and confidence," Chiarelli emphasizes. "I think you can win the trust and confidence of people by being with them in this society."

In order to do this, teams must adapt to the Iraqi culture. Muhammad Qutish, instructor of the cultural awareness class at the academy, points out the importance of understanding the differences between the two cultures so that Americans don't unknowingly offend Iraqis.

For example, he said, while chewing tobacco is accepted in Iraq, spitting can pose a problem. If an Iraqi sees someone spit on the street, he may think he was being spat at, and therefore disrespected. Since honor is a big part of Iraqi culture, a simple misunderstanding like this could escalate to a bigger issue.

"It is very important to take that into consideration because things could go wrong if misunderstood," Qutish said. "If he was good guy, now he will be a bad

guy and he will fight."

Beyond being aware of and adapting to the culture in which the teams will live and work, the teams must be ready to embrace advisory roles which are more complicated and difficult than just teaching the Iraqis basic soldiering skills.

Tom Adams, a retired command sergeant major from the 172nd Stryker Brigade and ethics instructor at the academy, said the advisers must be able to professionalize the ISF, moving beyond the basics of "shoot, move and communicate" to "values, principles and leadership."

He said that for Iraqis working under Saddam Hussein, it was about survival. They just did what he told them to do. Today, the Iraqi forces must understand the right way to run a military, morally as well as tactically.

"You just can't build an army without talking about values, the constitution and the role of the military in a democracy," Adams said. "We tackle some tough issues."

When advising a new army of a different culture, not to mention one in a constantly changing combat environment, transition teams must maintain adaptability to be successful. Similarly, their training must adapt as well. The IAG is responsible for overseeing the in-theater training of the transition teams to ensure it is synchronized, sequential and up-to-date.

Since the transition team concept began in early 2005, training has come a long way.

"We initially just took Soldiers

See MITTs, Page 8

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Post, Army news briefly

Band slates holiday concert

The 1st Infantry Division Band will perform a free holiday concert Dec. 15. The concert begins at 7 p.m. in McCain Auditorium at Kansas State University. The public is invited to attend.

Free tickets must be obtained to be admitted to the concert. Tickets are available at Fort Riley's ITR Office, 239-5614; the McCain Auditorium Box Office, (785) 532-6428; or by sending a SASE to McCain Auditorium, Kansas State University, 207 McCain Auditorium, Manhattan, KS 66506-4711.

Public Works offers boughs

Units, housing occupants and activities at Fort Riley desiring cedar and pine boughs to decorate the interior and exterior of their buildings can pick up the boughs at the Public Works parking lot on Dickman Avenue, across from Building 364 on Main Post.

Boughs will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis from Nov. 20 through Dec. 26.

Extreme care should be taken to avoid fire hazards when using the boughs. Frequent misting or sprinkling of boughs with water is recommended to retard their drying out.

All units, housing occupants and activities are reminded that cutting pine and cedar trees or branches anywhere on the installation is prohibited.

For more information, call 239-3908.



Soldiers take the M777 through its first Army fielding during a live-fire battalion exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area in Hawaii. *Courtesy photo*

Army fields M777, its first lightweight 155mm cannon

By Edward Murray and Martin Kane

The Picatinny Voice

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. (Army News Service) — With the recent delivery of 18 new M777 lightweight 155mm howitzers to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, the King of Battle — the field artillery's nickname — took a giant step forward.

The M777 is the military's newest field artillery weapon, a lightweight 155mm towed howitzer developed jointly by the Army and Marine Corps. It will be the artillery system for the Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Teams.

The M777 is the first ground-combat system to make extensive use of titanium in its major structures to trim weight. The howitzer is 7,000 pounds lighter than the M198 weapon it replaces.

The weight reduction improves transportability and mobility without impacting range

or accuracy," said Joint Program Manager James Shields.

Shields said the system will be compatible with the entire family of 155mm ammunition, including the Excalibur precision munition, when it is eventually fielded.

The M777 has the deployability advantages of a lightweight system like the M119, but the firepower of a 155mm weapon like the larger M198. Two systems can be transported on a C-130 at the same time.

The new howitzers have returned to Schofield Barracks, where they will be retrofitted with a digital fire control system in January to become M777A1s. The DFCS will provide the howitzer with the capability to communicate, navigate and aim, an upgrade that will increase accuracy and responsiveness.

Soldiers of the 2nd Bn, 11th FA, said they were pleased with the new weapons and look forward to the added capabilities.

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MiTTs continued from page 7

and leadership out of maneuver battalions and brigades that were across Iraq, with very little formal (transition team) training, and put them into the role as an adviser," said Command Sgt. Maj. Bobby Moore, IAG command sergeant major.

"What we realized over time is that we need to train advisers — not observers/controllers — on how to get out, how to deal with an Iraqi military, how to help the Iraqi military get better in their army and to build the skill sets that they need."

The training is ever-evolving and has improved considerably over the past 12 months, Moore said. "I do think the teams are prepared to do what they have to do in the field. And I think they get better every day."

"It's something we're continually progressing. The training model that we had six months ago has changed based on the lessons learned, and six months from now it will look a little different," West said.

"... we're about to implement more of a language training program at all of the stages throughout the training, based on the feedback from the teams," he added.

Teams complete after-action reviews after each training phase. Often the most valuable reviews come from the teams that have been working in their mission for a couple months, West said. They often don't realize exactly what they needed to learn until they actually get into their sector and work with their counterparts.

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Nation, Army bring Korean War hero home

By Gregory Frye

Fort Campbell Courier

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (Army News Service) — After more than 50 years of waiting, hoping and praying, the family of a Korean War hero can rest easier knowing their Soldier is finally home.

The remains of Pfc. Francis Crater Jr. were buried in the family plot in Akron, Ohio, Oct. 21 — nearly 56 years after his death.

Crater's great nephew, a current Soldier, was one of more than 250 people who attended the funeral.

"He was part of our family and meant a lot to us," said Staff Sgt. Bob Jenkins, motor sergeant, 106th Transportation Battalion, Fort Campbell. "As I grew up, I always knew about my Uncle Shorty."

Shorty was Crater's nickname. Standing 5 feet, 3 inches tall, the Ohio native was the youngest of three children.

Glenn Crater, Francis' older brother and Jenkins' grandfather, is the only immediate family member alive to see his brother's remains brought home.

"It profoundly affected me because it meant so much to my grandfather," Jenkins said. "I had to give the eulogy and kept choking up because I would look at my grandfather and see him crying. It really meant a lot to him."

The experience has been very emotional for Glenn Crater, who thought they would never hear anything about the fate of his younger brother and was shocked when he heard the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command found him.

"I'd like the world to know there was a Francis Crater," Glenn said. "He was a good kid, never got into trouble ... an average young guy growing up. When he was 18, his friend decided to join the Army, and Francis joined, too."

"There were a lot of people lost over there the same time my brother was,"



Glenn said.

Francis was killed in Korea as he fought the enemy off his fellow Soldiers, hopping back and forth between machine gun nests.

Charles Rachac, who now lives in Michigan, was one of only three people from the unit to survive the battle at Chosin Reservoir. They held their ground for five days until the enemy finally prevailed.

"Crater was my assistant on the machine gun," he said. "He was a small guy but had a giant stature."

Rachac recalls the last meal he had with Francis; the temperature was 40 below freezing, and their food was so frozen they could barely eat. "The last supper," he called it.

"He died with a lot of heroes up there," Rachac said. "I was fortunate enough to come back, and I don't know why I've been living with this burden for a lot of years. I think everybody up there was wounded one way or another, mentally or physically."

Rachac jokes about how everyone used to "razz" Francis about his name.

"I never had a chance to say goodbye to him," he said. "He'll always be forever young; I'll always remember him as a 20-year-old."

Francis was killed Nov. 28, 1950. The next day, his mother, Beatrice, received a telegram stating her son was missing in action but presumed dead.

"She always hoped he would come back, knocking at the door," Jenkins said of his great grandmother. "She went to her grave thinking that."

Until now, Crater's family was never sure what happened to him.

"We weren't sure if he was injured or killed," Jenkins said, "but these remains reveal that he was shot through the back of the head."

Now, thanks to teams from JPAC, 88 percent of Francis' skeletal remains are finally where they ought to be. JPAC is a Hawaii-based military organization dedicated to finding fallen Soldiers.

"It's an important mission to our country," said Troy Kitch, deputy public affairs director for JPAC. "It's a valuable and honorable mission we're proud to be a part of."

"In the 1970s," Kitch said, "the mission was born out of the Vietnam War. People wanted to see their loved ones brought home."

Since then, the mission has evolved into JPAC. Investigation teams and recovery teams travel the world, covering all of the nation's wars in the past century.

"People deserve to come home and be buried with full honors," Kitch said.

JPAC has about 1,100 boxes of remains, 40 percent of which are from North Korea.

"When we have remains come in," Kitch said, "we analyze as much as possible. If we can't figure out who it is, it goes back on the shelf until we get more evidence."

Kitch stresses the importance of being absolutely positive about a given identity before contacting family members.

JPAC needs mitochondrial evidence from living family members in order to identify many of the remains.



Courtesy photo

Pfc. Francis Crater Jr. is transported to his final resting place in Akron, Ohio, Oct. 21. Crater was killed during the Korean War in 1950, but his remains were not identified until recently.

Rachac encouraged Glenn Crater to send a blood sample to JPAC, which had actually found Francis' remains in 2000. Glenn's blood sample helped JPAC positively identify Francis' remains.

Years after Francis' death, his family continued to keep his memory alive. Even Jenkins, who never met his great uncle, knew all about the family hero. At 9, he drew an award-winning picture of a Soldier standing behind a barbed-wire fence. Below he wrote: "this is my Uncle Shorty, and I hope he comes home one day."

Now that Jenkins is grown and in the Army, he appreciates what has been done for his Uncle Shorty.

"It was a shock," Jenkins said. "A lot of times people only find a tooth or bone fragment, but to hear they had found 88

percent of his skeletal remains — that was something special."

Jenkins admitted there were a lot of things his family didn't know about Francis' military accomplishments — until recently. No one knew, for instance, that he had been a part of three campaigns in Korea until seeing the three campaign medals on the uniform provided by the Army for the service.

"I'm glad these people have the conviction to exhaust every resource at their expense to set this right," Jenkins said. "These guys gave their lives to serve their country, and so their country should do everything in its power to get them back."

Francis Crater Jr. is buried next to his mother in Greenlawn Memorial Park in Akron, Ohio.

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Maj. Dustin Elder (left), commander of the 82nd Med. Co. (AA), joins the company's 1st sergeant, 1st Sgt. Clark Charpentier, to unfurl the company's new guidon during the unit's redeployment awards and reflagging ceremony at McCain Auditorium on the Kansas State University campus Nov. 16. The company was redesignated as Company C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade under the 1st Infantry Division.



1st Inf. Div./Baack

82nd Med.

continued from page 1

deployment, the command group from the Marine Corps' Regimental Combat Team 7 personally thanked each Soldier for his support and presented the company with a plaque of appreciation.

It was the first time the Marines' RCT 7 had done that for anyone outside their unit during their 11-month deployment.

"This small story embodies all that 'Dustoff' stands for," Elder said. "It made me very proud that our unit can add to the 'anyone, anywhere, anytime' legacy that the 'Dustoff' air crews have been building since Vietnam."

Originally constituted in 1943 as the 82nd Malaria Control Unit, it was redesignated as the 82nd Medical Detachment and activated as a helicopter ambulance unit in 1954. The unit provided medical evacuation support while in

Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Somalia
and in Iraq during Operations
Iraqi Freedom I, II and 05-07.

"I think that the Soldiers assigned to 82nd Med. Co. are the best that the Army has to offer in every job skill that they operate in," said Company 1st Sgt. Clark Charpentier. "They provide the most professional and efficient service no matter what their job is, whether it's life-saving, turning wrenches or food service. They do an outstanding job. It's an outstanding company."

After the awards presentation, the 82nd Med. Co. (AA) cased its guidon and reflagged as Company C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, under the "Big Red One." Though they were only now reflagging under the new unit, the company fell under 2nd

Bn., 1st Avn., while they were deployed.

"From Day One, when we fell under 2-1 Aviation, the support was phenomenal," Charpentier said. "We had just had one of the biggest setbacks that any company can have – the loss of Soldiers – and the battalion definitely stepped right in and assisted us to get through that very difficult time. Since we've been back, it's been outstanding support."

"It was a very good ceremony," said Sgt. Albert Forshey, flight medic who was awarded the Purple Heart, two Air Medals and the Army Achievement Medal. "It was good for all the Soldiers – all the ones who've been brought back – and it was good that they finally got recognized for the good job that we did while we were overseas."

21 people ready to retire

Ceremony honors Soldiers, civilian workers

Staff report

Fort Riley will recognize and honor the service of 18 Soldiers and three civilian employees who will be retiring. The monthly retirement ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. Nov. 29 in Long Fitness Center.

Those scheduled to retire are:
Lt. Col. Michael E. Martine,
Medical Department Activity
Lt. Col. LaVerne Moore-Wash-
ington, MEDDAC
Sgt. Maj. Tyrone Jenkins,
Headquarters and Headquarters
Company, 1st Infantry Division
Sgt. 1st Class Jerome P.
Schweitzer, 596th Signal Compa-

ny

Sgt. 1st Class Kelly L. Deatsch,
125th Forward Support Battalion
Sgt. 1st Class Scott A. Hayes,
541st Combat Sustainment Sup-
port Battalion

Sgt. 1st Class Brody Hillstock,
2nd Battalion, 34th Armor
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher
Foreman, 291st Regiment, 2nd
Aviation Battalion

Sgt. 1st Class Franklin Savage,
172nd Chemical Company
Sgt. 1st Class Jerrell Sweeney,
Headquarters and Headquarters
Company, 1st Brigade
Sgt. 1st Class Terry G. Rice,
179th Transportation Company
Sgt. 1st Class Richard M. Can-

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey P. Gurney, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry

Staff Sgt. Renato A. Pasion,
MEDDAC
Staff Sgt. Pilar F. Sandoval,
125th FSB

125th FSB
Staff Sgt. James A. Martin, 4th
Battalion, 1st Field Artillery
Staff Sergeant Sharon D.
Garfield, 101st Forward Support
Battalion

Sgt. Charles P. Imes, Company
B, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor
Paul Wilson, Fort Riley Fire
Department
Michael Moore, FRFD
Stephen Water, Directorate of
Public Works

Missing Soldier promoted

Dept. of the Army

The Army has promoted its only Soldier listed as captured to staff sergeant with an effective promotion date of Aug. 3, 2006.

Keith "Matt" Maupin is a member of the 724th Transportation Company from Bartonville, Ill.

On April 9, 2004, enemy forces attacked Maupin's convoy with rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire. Missing after the attack, he was immediately placed in an accountability status referred to as "Duty Status: Whereabouts Unknown."

On April 16, 2004, his status was changed to "Missing-Captured."

The U.S. Army's Warrior Ethos — "I will never leave a fallen comrade" — makes clear the Army's unwavering commitment to finding Maupin. Coalition forces continue to actively search for Maupin and will do so until he is

Until that time, he remains on active duty status with all rights and privileges for pay and promotions.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Wednesday, November 22, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

Community news briefly

Spouses set Nov. meeting

The Enlisted Spouses' Club will meet at 6 p.m. Nov. 29 to wrap gifts for Operation Santa Claus.

Members should meet at Building 261, behind in-processing.

A short business meeting will precede the wrapping, which will continue until 8 or 9 p.m.

Members should consider bringing a new packaged toy to donate. Operation Santa Claus is in need of toys for children 11 years and older and for infants.

Child care will be from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. for those who RSVP to Amy Scarpulla at ascarpulla@gmail.com or 717-2753.

For more information, visit www.fortrileyenc.net on the Web.

Post students picked for band

The Fort Riley Middle School has announced that four of its students in the eighth-grade advanced band have been selected to participate in the Kansas Music Educators Association North Central District Honor Band.

The students are: Alexis Miskevish and Zach Sankey on trumpet; Zhakia Bynum on flute and Dominika Pullman on percussion.

These and other area students will rehearse and perform a concert on Jan. 20 at Junction City High School.

Motorcycle riders to roll for 'Santa'

Operation Santa Claus, in cooperation with the new U.S. Military Motorcycle Riders founded by Sgt. 1st Class Carl "Cowboy" Corey, will be doing a Motorcycle Toy Ride and Wrap Dec. 2 for all civilians and servicemembers who ride motorcycles.

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with a donation of toys to Operation Santa Claus. Riders are asked not to donate stuffed animal toys.

The roundup will begin at the Marshall Army Air Field gate and proceed to Building 261, where riders will park their bikes and wrap presents. In inclement weather, vehicles are welcome.

About noon, after the wrapping, motorcyclists will leave to enjoy fellowship at an area restaurant.

Anyone interested can go to www.usmmr.com on the Web or call Corey at 717-5725 or Amber (OSC ELF) at 239-2771 or 239-6944.

Free auto repair class offered

The Fort Riley Auto Skills Center will offer a free advanced auto repair class from 6 to 7 p.m. Nov. 23.

For more information, call the center at 239-9764.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Language lessons



Gloria Butcher (standing, right) helps Kathy Hatfield sign a number. Also learning to count in American Sign Language are Dolly Guevara (left) and Luz Perez (center).

CYS families learn sign language skills

By Vicki Ohmacht
CYS

Hands-on training took new meaning for Child and Youth Services families at Fort Riley recently as they participated in a six-week American Sign Language class.

Conducted by two caregivers from the Warren Road Child Development Center, the class offered parents and CYS staff an opportunity to bond as well as learn a fascinating new way to communicate with young children, according to Carole Hoffman, director.

"This class is an asset all around," Hoffman said. "Young children have limited vocabulary and limited language. When I teach my staff to sign, they can teach the children. In the long run, it teaches the children to be less frustrated and to communicate more with each other."

"When we are able to share this knowledge, it also allows our parents who attend the class to see what we as staff have to offer their children," she added.

Traci Thompson is a preschool caregiver and was the lead teacher for the class of 25 students. Taught at the School-Age Services building on Thomas Avenue, the

attendees included CDC and SAS caregivers, parents and their children. The one-hour sessions included lecture and activities designed to teach 150 signs.

"In six weeks, you can't teach someone to be an interpreter, but you can teach them to use it to communicate with children," Thompson said. "It's also enough to communicate with a hearing-impaired person."

Thompson is a second-generation interpreter from Louisiana with more than 20 years of experience. Her mother began

See Sign language, Page 12

Students interview for cadet positions

Committee will select Rep. Moran's appointments

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Children of two Fort Riley civilian employees pursued their desires to attend U.S. military academies Nov. 18, undergoing interviews by Congressman Jerry Moran's academy appointment selection committee.

Ashley Glover, the daughter of Albert Glover, a military pay clerk at Fort Riley, and Mike Mizes, son of Cynthia Mizes, director of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, were among 20 high school seniors and other students interviewed at Riley's Conference Center.



Ashley Glover



Mike Mizes

Moran will announce his appointments mid-to late January.

Mizes said he knew what to expect as far as the interview process would go. He had already participated in interviews with selection boards representing Rep. Jim Ryan and Sen. Sam Brownback.

Glover went through practice interviews at the high school with the parents of cadets questioning her. That helped prepare her for the kinds of questions Moran's selection committee would likely ask, she said.

Moran's process surprised him and Glover a little, though. Ryan's selection committee split up and Mizes appeared before only one of the groups. Moran's selection committee split into four groups, but each appointment candidate

See Cadets, Page 13

New SKIES classes offered on post

SKIES Unlimited

Several new self-development and personal skills classes are available to Fort Riley families. Classes are:

Strings

Strings instrument instruction for students 5 to 18 years old. Enrollment is open at Child and Youth Services now. Classes begin Dec. 7 at the Teen Center and cost \$40 per month for weekly 30-minute sessions.

Class sessions are 5-5:30 p.m.,

5:30-6 p.m. and 6-6:30 p.m. Thursdays and 10-10:30 a.m., 10:30-11 a.m. and 11-11:30 a.m. Saturdays.

Web design

A Web page building workshop is planned for students 10-18 years old. Enrollment is open now and workshops are scheduled in the Teen Center computer lab in Building 5800.

The first session will be Dec. 7, 14 and 21; Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25; and Feb. 1.

The second session will be Feb. 15 and 22; March 1, 8, 15 and 29;

and April 5 and 12.

Tap dance

Tap dance for youth 5-10 years old will be taught in the Teen Center dance room in Building 5800 on Wednesdays from 7 to 7:45 p.m.

Cost is \$35 per month.

An informational session is planned for Dec. 6. No tap shoes required for first class, but a sports physical is required to participate.

Horseback riding

Private horseback riding

lessons are available at Ashwood Farms Monday through Saturday by arrangement. Hunt style seating is taught.

A package of six private lessons cost \$199. Individual lessons cost \$40.

Helmet use is required. Helmets will be available for beginners.

Enrollment begins Dec. 11 and a sports physical is required.

Enrollment for all classes is done at Child and Youth Services in Building 7434.

For more information, call 239-4748.

IACH, DENTAC sponsor museum

Special to the Post

While not organic units of the 1st Infantry Division, Irwin Army Community Hospital and the Fort Riley Dental Activity are moving beyond their normal health maintenance roles to become the division's first permanent sponsors of an installation quality of life activity—the Fort Riley Museum.

Starting Dec. 2, IACH and DENTAC, with assistance from the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley, will jointly sponsor a quarterly assistance program designed to help the Fort Riley Museum with the myriad of maintenance tasks associated with running the cavalry and regimental museums and the Custer House.

One of the most pressing needs will be to perform maintenance at the Custer House, which serves as

a tourist destination and social gathering place, drawing thousands of visitors throughout the year.

This level of activity, combined with the fiscal restraints imposed by the war on terrorism, have left the Custer House in need of a helping hand. With HASFR members providing support through the purchase of cleaning supplies and holiday decorations, and IACH and DENTAC providing leadership and volunteers, the Custer House will soon be cleaned and sparkling with holiday cheer.

Mission a 'perfect fit'

Medical Department and IACH Commander Col. L. Dawn M. Smith said this volunteer mission is a perfect fit for MEDDAC and DENTAC. "Our two organiza-

tions consist of people who are caring, socially minded and patriotic by nature. Caring is what we do 24/7/365, so sponsoring the division's museum, which adds so much to our quality of life, is a natural extension of what we do every day as the supporting cast of the Duty First Division.

"We also believe that it is important to create ways to re-invest in our community. We are proud of this Custer House, and the Department of the Army simply cannot fund everything it would like to, so it is up to us to bridge the gap whenever we can."

Col. Donn Grimes, DENTAC commander, agreed, saying that "preparing the Custer House for the holidays by attending to much needed maintenance and hanging holiday decorations provides both organizations with a great oppor-

See Museum, Page 12



Keys, at last

Fort Riley SPC. Al Konte accepts a souvenir mug holding, among other things, the keys to his new house. He received the keys Nov. 18 from Lorna Felix of the Junction City Mutual Self-Help Development Program. The Kontentes and five other families took occupancy of new homes they helped build. See story on page 13.

Post/Heronemus



Sign language

continued from page 11

interpreting in college at the University of Louisiana-Monroe and sparked her daughter's interest at an early age.

"A deaf man came to our church, and my mother started interpreting for him," she said. "I remember sitting on the front pew and watching her. I then started interpreting at age 14."

Thompson has taken college courses in ASL and interpreted in educational settings since then.

Sign language is something I love," she said. "It's also a great way to communicate with your child. My daughter, Maci, at age 11 months could sign words like 'milk, eat, more.' Sign language doesn't eliminate the 'terrible twos' but it is such a relief to know your child can tell you they are hurting or hungry. I think infants and toddlers have less of a tendency to scream or get frustrated when they can sign."

Like any other language, Thompson said sign language requires constant practice for proficiency. Teaching classes helps her maintain her own fluency, as it does for her co-worker, Gloria Butcher. Hearing-impaired since a near fatal case of meningitis at age three, Butcher helped Thompson teach the class for similar reasons.

"Sign language is something I love, too, but I don't get to do it a lot since I moved away from home," Butcher said. "I don't know many hearing-impaired people here, and this class has given me an opportunity to stay in practice and assist others in learning how to sign."

Butcher and Thompson use ASL on the job as caregivers in their classrooms. Butcher works with toddlers and finds it especially helpful with this age group.

"The whole classroom is a teaching a new sign every day," she said. "Signing is just another form of communication we use. It let's us know what they need and



Instructors Gloria Butcher (standing, left) and Traci Thompson demonstrate the sign for the color pink. CYS/Olmacht

want."

Some critics say teaching sign language to children with normal hearing can retard language development when the child doesn't need to express themselves verbally. This happens in rare cases, according to Hoffman.

"Children are able to learn to sign very basically around age one. By 18 months, many toddlers and infants are proficient enough to sign to get their basic needs met. Most children do not have a delay, but most often, the ones that do have a hearing-impaired parent who doesn't speak the word when they sign. They may wait a little longer to speak, but when they do, they instantly catch up and excel," said Hoffman, who holds a master's degree in special education and is a skilled interpreter.

Advocates believe sign language is a natural form of communication and is actually beneficial to speech acquisition. "When you are signing with a

child, one part of their brain is being used. When they hear the spoken word, it's another part of the brain; so when children are learning language with signing they are actually having two parts of their brains actively engaged instead of just one," Hoffman explained.

A caregiver who attended the class and uses ASL with the toddlers in her classroom agrees with Hoffman.

"I'll show them the sign for 'sleep' and ask them what it means and they will say the word, 'sleep.' Then I'll turn it around later and ask them to show me the sign for 'sleep,' and they put their head on their hands," Kathy Hatfield said.

"I have a child that doesn't speak a lot, but he will actually speak more when I use sign language," she added.

Hatfield said the class has also helped CDC employees bond with parents who also attended the

training.

"We have this special connection. Sometimes, I'll talk to Jazmin's mom and use the signs we both learned in class," she said.

Jazmin's mother, Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Smith of the Mobilization Deployment Brigade, agrees.

"Overall, I think it's good for cohesion. You get to know the caregivers and it gives the parents a different perspective of them," she said. "It also gives you a warm feeling since it's apparent the center is also trying to teach parents as well as caregivers that the center cares about the children's development and what they learn here."

"We want parents to see us as partners," Hoffman said. "We want them to see the training and be involved in this training so they know it's not just about baby sitting. It's about this high quality environment that we have for young children here."

AAFES helps make holidays brighter for deployed Soldiers

AAFES

DALLAS, Texas (Army News Service, Nov. 17, 2006) — Nothing brightens the day of a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman more than a care package filled with special items from home. Unfortunately, as the holidays approach and well-meaning Americans step up troop support efforts, many of the handwritten cards and

homemade cookies take longer to reach their destinations. "Ultimately the boxes of batteries, toothbrushes and shaving cream can delay some much needed and requested items from friends and family," said Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton, Army & Air Force Exchange Service senior enlisted advisor.

"While any and all support is very much appreciated, those who choose to support our troops this holiday season should consider whether the items they are collecting and mailing are truly needed."

Today, AAFES operates 53 PX/BX facilities throughout Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The stock assortment found in these exchanges varies from location to location, but even the most basic operation provides access to toiletries, phone cards and cold drinks.

Any American can provide these and many more items to deployed troops by ordering a lightweight "Gift from the Homefront" gift certificate for less than it costs to send a 1-pound package.

With the PX/BX certificates, available at aafes.org or (877) 770-4438, troops can pick up toothpaste, socks or even Burger King Whoppers when they want them. "Gifts from the Homefront" are not only redeemable at exchanges throughout Iraq and Afghanistan, but can also be used at any of the 187 name brand fast food outlets AAFES operates in the contingency theater.

"Exchange gift certificates provide an affordable and efficient troop support option that can mitigate the impact American troops face in the contingency theater."

See AAFES, Page 14

Museum

continued from page 11

tunity to enhance the quality of life on the installation.

"Our merry make-over is going to be a fun and personally rewarding event. I'm also looking forward to a few minutes of being able to study the historical settings up close."

Slated to begin at 9 a.m. Dec. 2, this quarterly volunteer event is also open to all HASFR and Fort Riley residents.

Information about this event can be obtained by contacting Frank J. Smith at 784-9988 or Rachelle Grimes at 717-2738.

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Homeowners contribute 'sweat equity' on path to ownership

Fort Riley family participates in program to help build their own home, lower their mortgage

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

A Fort Riley military family joined five other local families Nov. 18 to receive the keys to their new homes in Junction City. It was the first military family to participate in the special home ownership program.

Spe. Alper Kontente of the 601st Aviation Support Battalion and his daughter attended the ceremony on East 16th Street, where the family will eventually live.

'Sweat equity' pays off

The six families recently completed eight months of work on their homes in the self-help program that gives families a chance for affordable mortgages if they contribute "sweat equity" to build their homes.

Families must work 25 to 35 hours a week for eight months to finish all six houses, explained Todd Fike, the program's director. In exchange for the "sweat equity," the families will own homes valued at about \$120,000 with a mortgage of about \$90,000, Fike said.

Want info?

For information about the self-help housing program and how to qualify, visit the program office in the basement of the Junction City Municipal Building, 700 Jefferson St., or call 238-3103, extension 142.

The work family members do includes everything except the licensed work, such as electricity and plumbing, Fike explained. The current group of families poured concrete, framed the houses, put up walls and sheet rock and put on siding and roof shingles, he said.

The Kontentes' home includes wall-to-wall carpeting, four bedrooms, two baths, a combination kitchen, dining area and living room and finished two-car garage. The lawn has been seeded and one tree has been planted in the front yard.

Their home sits in a neighborhood of about 20 homes built through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Mutual Self-Help Housing Program.

Program builds neighborhoods

Junction City has helped 35 families build new homes using that program, Fike said. Work on another six in the Kontentes' neighborhood already is under way.

The program is important, said USDARD Kansas Director Chuck Banks, because it helps families improve their living standard and "it builds neighborhoods."

Fike commented before the ribbon-cutting ceremony officially turning over the homes to their new owners that he could see many of the neighbors who already had moved into their homes among people in the crowd.



Post/Heronemus

Six-year-old Athena Brown prepares to cut the ribbon officially opening her family's new home and five others in the Junction City Self-Help Housing program. Helping Athena are Todd Fike, program director, and Dan Pfizenmaier, the program's on-site supervisor. Fort Riley Soldier Al Kontente (second from right) was among the family representatives accepting the keys to their new homes. The Kontentes are the first military family to participate in the self-help program.

Cadets

continued from page 11

appeared before each of the groups, Glover said.

Mizes and Glover expressed similar opinions about what the selection committee was seeking from each candidate. They thought the committee members really wanted to get to know each applicant personally.

Some of the questions committee members posed "challenged me," Glover said. "They weren't hard, but they made me think about how I wanted to answer them," she explained. The questions probed into her personality, Glover said, so the committee members could "learn about me as a person."

Both Junction City High

School seniors said they had been thinking about military careers and attending a military academy for some time. Glover said she began thinking seriously about attending the U.S. Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs, Colo., halfway through her junior year in high school.

Mizes said he has thought about pursuing a military career "every since I was young. I'm impressed by the organization of the Army and how effective it can be," he explained.

That impression came second-hand to the young man. He wasn't raised in a military family, but his association with local people in the military has rubbed off on him

Glover's lean toward military

Luncheon Speaker

Lt. Col. John Nagl, commander of 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, at Fort Riley, and a 1988 graduate of West Point, entertained the applicants and selection committee with stories about his life as a military academy cadet and what that has meant to him since graduation.

One of the members of the selection committee that appointed him to West Point offered advice to Nagl that he passed on to those who would be selected for appointment to one of the nation's military academies:

"The goal is worth the effort," he said.

positively, the Jr. ROTC cadet lieutenant with the Junction City High School Blue Jay Battalion said.

service seems to come more naturally. "My mother was in the Army for six years. My father retired after 20 years," she said. Glover said her goal was to

convince the selection committee she has what it takes to be a cadet. She wanted to leave them with the knowledge she was a leader, trustworthy and honest, Glover said. Mizes said he wanted to convince the committee members that he knows fully what he faces if selected to attend a military academy.

He also wanted them to know he accepts those challenges and hard times, is aware of the diversity in the military and knows what demands a military life puts on a person.

Being a cadet would take a lot of personal perseverance, Mizes said. "I know there will be many hard times I'll have to overcome."

Two members of the selection committee, Jean Clifford and Jesse Bernal from Garden City, Kan., said they were impressed with all the applicants. "They have accomplished so much for their age," Clifford said while eating lunch.

Moran told everyone attending the luncheon following the interviews that the annual meeting to interview applicants for his academy appointments was a highlight of every congressman's time in office. "This is the top of the list of what congressmen get to do," he said.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.

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Community news briefly

Commissary sets holiday hours

Nov. 24 – 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Pre-Christmas, Dec. 18 – 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Christmas Day – Closed
New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 – 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
New Year's Day – Closed

Shoppe offers holiday gifts

The Fort Riley Shoppe in the U.S. Cavalry Museum is now open six days a week.

The Shoppe's hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

The Shoppe offers a selection of Fort Riley gifts, hard-to-find military gifts, historical items

and hand-crafted items. The Shoppe adds new vendors monthly and receives new inventory weekly.

The Shoppe needs volunteers to cover the Shoppe's hours of operation. Volunteers receive a \$25 gift voucher for volunteering five times, plus reimbursement for child care anytime they volunteer.

Volunteer training is given from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday.

For more information, call Shannon DelBorrell at 784-4231.

Classes given in Spanish

Army Family Team Building classes are now offered in Spanish. For information about the classes, call Becky Willis at 239-9435 or Jacky Porter at 410-6945.



Operation Santa Claus

Katie Dickson, a Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation recreation management trainee, wraps a present at the Operation Santa Claus headquarters in Building 261.

"It only took 30 minutes out of my day to wrap a present or two, and I know it will put a smile on a youngster's face," she said. OSC is up and running and is in need of volunteer wrappers. Anyone who would like to volunteer can call the OSC Elves at 239-6944 for information.

They will even treat volunteers to lunch at the Main Post Dining Facility.

Courtesy photo

AAFES

continued from page 12

ca's generosity can have on holiday mail from spouses, parents and friends," said Eaton. "Speeding delivery of these critical items is one of the best possible gifts we can send troops spending the holidays far from home."

The gift certificates may be sent to an individual servicemember, designated by the purchaser, or distributed to "any servicemember" through the Air Force Aid Society, American Red Cross, Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, Fisher House, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Operation Homefront, Operation Interdependence®, Soldier & Family Assistance Center, USA Cares or USO.

As of Nov. 1, more than 71,000 "Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates have been sent since the inception of the troop support campaign in March 2003. More than 19,000 of these have been delivered to servicemembers and their families via AAFES' 10 charitable partners.

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Service directory Nov post./du/



Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Wednesday, November 22, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 15

Sports news in brief

Outdoor Rec sets winter hours

Outdoor Recreation Center winter hours of operation from Dec. 3 through March 3 will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The center will be closed Sunday and Monday.

Association sets Polar Bear run

The National Infantry Association will sponsor the first 5K Polar Bear Run on Fort Riley Dec. 16. The start and finish point is King Field House.

The run starts at 10 a.m., and walkers are welcome. Cost is \$15 before the run, \$20 the day of the run. A t-shirt will be provided.

To register for the run or for more information, call 1st Lt. Ed Ziembinski at 239-1447 or 239-1448 or send him e-mail at edward.ziembinski@riley.army.mil.

FRMS wrestlers compete at home

The Fort Riley Middle School wrestling team hosted a meet Nov. 15 against Marysville and Logan of Topeka. No team scores were kept.

Frankie Zachar, Dalton Wagenblast, Trevor Pond and Rebecca Dirks won two matches each.

Derrian Bibbs, Austin Parton, Tommy Hoohehan, Dylan Soper, Justice Van Ness, Cody Skinner, Guelmi Salgado, Taylor Popple, Mike Vacanti, Kevin Euring and Clayton Vermeesch won one match each.

Schumacher completes biggest comeback in history

NHRA

POMONA, Calif. (Army News Service) — U.S. Army Top Fuel driver Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher completed the biggest point comeback in NHRA history last Nov. 12 by capturing the Auto Club Finals and setting the new national elapsed time record at Auto Club Raceway.

U.S. Army Pro Stock Motorcycle pilot Antron Brown was beaten in the second round of eliminations and lost his shot at the 2006 NHRA POWERade world championship. In other action, Brown's Pro Stock Motorcycle teammate, Angelle Sampey, dropped a first-round match-up to Matt Smith.

Schumacher came into the season finale 46 points behind leader Doug Kalitta. To win his fourth career world championship, he

had to advance three rounds more than Kalitta or go two rounds further and set the new national elapsed time record for an extra 20 bonus points. He did the latter.

"Well, I guess we did it the hard way given the two options," offered the Chicago native who came from 336 points down to win the crown. "But, it was incredibly exciting. I can tell you that. It came down to the last round at the last race. Is there anything better than that?"

Schumacher took out David Baca, Rod Fuller and Brandon Bernstein before his historic run in the finals against teammate Melanie Troxel. He needed to beat Troxel and go beneath the elapsed time record that he previously held — 4.437-seconds — to win the championship. He won

See Schumacher, Page 16



NHRA photo

U.S. Army Top Fuel driver Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher completed the biggest point comeback in NHRA history Nov. 12 by capturing the Auto Club Finals and setting the new national elapsed time record at Auto Club Raceway.

Bull rider takes 3rd

By J.D. Leipold

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — When Mike Lee climbs onto the back of a 1,900 pound, ornery bull with a name like "Hit and Run," he espouses the Army Strong spirit of grit and courage.

One of three Army-sponsored bull riders and the only one to make it to the final rounds of the 2006 Ford Tough Professional Bull Riding World Finals in Las Vegas, Nev., on Nov. 4-5, Lee managed to be bucked from 14th to third place by competition's end.

At 23, Lee has been in the PBR five years. Already he has earned more than \$2 mil-

See Bull riding, Page 16

Middle school wrestlers compete in tournament

Special to the Post

The Troopers of Fort Riley Middle School competed in Topeka's Northern Hills Wrestling Tournament Nov. 17. The team placed third of 11 schools, earning 148.5 points. Shawnee Heights was first with 219.5 points and Manhattan's Eisenhower Middle School was second with 165 points.

Two FRMS wrestlers won tournament championships in their weights. Frankie Zachar placed first at 95 pounds and Kevin Euring won the 155-pound title.

Jaelen Gadson (80 pounds), Derrian Bibbs (85 pounds), Austin Parton (90 pounds) and Tommy Hoohehan (100 pounds) placed second in their weight classes.

Dylan Soper (115 pounds) and Rebecca Dirks (148 pounds) came home with fourth place finishes. Justice Van Ness, Rory Haug

and Alan Coleman won two matches each; and Cody Skinner, Ryan Thomson and Mike Vacanti won one match each.

Other schools competing in the tournament and their scores were:

Washburn Rural, 132.5
Junction City, 129.5
Northern Hills of Topeka, 128.5

Lawrence Southwest, 96
Logan of Topeka, 89
Anthony of Manhattan, 85.5
Clark of Bonner Springs, 55
Lawrence South, 20

The Troopers' next match is Nov. 30 in Wamego. It will be a triple dual meet against Wamego, Chapman and Rock Creek.

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Bull riding

continued from page 15

lion in prize money and is the first to simultaneously capture both the PBR's World Championship title and the Built Ford Tough Finals in 2004.

Lee has never been a Soldier, but a mini boot camp he attended upon selection for the Army team led him to compare the physical and emotional challenges that Soldiers and bull riders face.

"Soldiers are a lot like bull riders. Soldiers have to show courage, they have to control their minds and always be prepared for what their missions are," said Lee, who grew up in Billings, Mont. "I go home and practice, watch my videos, ride horses and do all kinds of things to prepare myself. When I get on a bull and they open that gate, there's no thinking anymore, your mind goes blank and you go into react mode. Soldiers have to do the same."

The Professional Bull Riders, Inc., touts bull riding as the "toughest sport on dirt" and America's fastest growing sport, having more than a 52 percent growth in television viewership since 2002.

The principles of bull riding are deceptively simple. Dressed in chaps, boots, Kevlar vest, hat or helmet, mouthpiece and dulled spurs, the rider climbs into the bucking chute onto the bull's back and slides one gloved hand (usually the glove is taped around the wrist) under the bull rope.

With a ready-to-go signal from the rider, the gate opens and out storms the bull, bucking, turning and twisting. A rider is disqualified if he touches the bull or the rope with his free hand that dances over his head to seek balance and counter the bull's erratic movements.

It's all about staying on for a maximum of eight seconds, but a bull ride is rarely that long.

This is what Lee and his fellow



ANS/Leipold
Army bull rider Mike Lee (center) concentrates on his ride in the bull chute at the 2006 Ford Tough Professional Bull Riding World Finals in Las Vegas, Nev., Nov. 4-5.

cowboys live for... and, some have died for.

Lee, himself, nearly died for his love of bull riding in 2003. Just 20 at the time, he climbed onto "Chili," a 1,700 pounder and out the chute they came. Six seconds later, the bull threw him, but in the course of the toss, beast and rider went head-to-head. With adrenaline pumping, Lee was able to run to safety, then he was out cold.

Even though he wears a full-faced helmet that resembles those worn by lacrosse players, the head-to-head collision resulted in Lee suffering a fractured skull. He underwent brain surgery that put him out of competition for more than four months.

"My dad bought me a helmet when I was 15," Lee laughs. "He told me to wear it because he didn't

want to buy me any teeth because they were expensive... but that helmet saved my life."

After recovering, Lee questioned whether he should continue working in what has been referred to as one of the most dangerous eight seconds in sports. There was hardly a doubt. Less than a year later he had his first two championships.

When Lee was selected as one of the three bull riders to represent the Army team, he knew he'd fit right in, just as the new Army Strong campaign fits in with his work and life ethic.

"Army Strong means heart, desire, being prepared and doing my job," Lee said. "It has a big impact on us and is a big inspiration for me. It means you get up off an injury or after a buck-off, you ride again and just never quit."

Schumacher

continued from page 15

with a 4.428-second pass at 327.98 mph.

"That was a prime example of being Army Strong," he added. "It was also nice to accomplish what we did today on Veteran's Day weekend. We can't forget all of those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

By winning his third straight world title, Schumacher became the second driver in Top Fuel history to turn that trick. The other was Joe Amato in the early 1990s.

"As I've stated before, I'm in pretty good company right there," he said.

Brown, who came into race day having to advance three rounds further than point leader Andrew

Hines to win his first world championship, beat Ryan Schnitz in the opening round of eliminations before dropping a match-up with Craig Treble in round two.

With Hines losing in the first round, the door was actually open for Brown to claim the 2006 crown, but he couldn't get by Treble and as a result was taken out of contention.

"I'm disappointed for sure,"

Brown said. "We had destiny in our own hands, but we couldn't quite finish the mission. I can't thank my U.S. Army team enough for putting me in the position that I was in today."

"We'll go back to the shop next week and immediately start to prepare for 2007. To get as close

as we did this year, we obviously want to take that next step."

Sampey posted a solid run in her confrontation with Smith, but she was tardy leaving the starting line and it cost her at the finish line.

"That's definitely not the way I wanted to end the season," said the three-time world champion who finished third in the final standings behind Brown. "My U.S. Army Suzuki ran well enough to win, but I just didn't do my part."

"I'm already looking forward to next year. With any kind of luck, Antron and I will be the only ones battling it out for the championship."

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CLASSIFIED ADS





Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Wednesday, November 22, 2006

Leisure time ideas

At the movies:

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

Nov. 24 — The Departed, R, 149 min.

Nov. 25 — Man of the Year, PG-13, 115 min.

Nov. 26 — Flicka, PG, 95 min.

For more information, call 239-9574.

ITR helps plan get-aways

The Information, Ticketing and Registration office in Building 6918 at Fort Riley has lots of travel information, and the staff can help set up brief trips and longer vacations.

Here's a sampling of what ITR has to offer:

Rolling Hills Zoo — Located amidst the rolling hills of western Saline County, this section of Kansas prairie has been transformed into a beautifully landscaped zoological park. More than 85 species of animals are on exhibit. Discount tickets are now available through ITR.

Silver Dollar City — Childhood dreams come to life at Silver Dollar City with adventures beyond your wildest imagination. Buy your adult ticket and get a child's ticket free. Let ITR put together a weekend get-away to Branson, Mo. Numerous discounted show tickets and hotel accommodations.

Blue Rapids:

What: Lighted Horse Drawn Parade. Horse drawn parade with sloppy joe dinner at the community building.

When: Dec. 9

Where: Public Square

Phone: (785) 363-7991

Herington:

What: Santa's Workshop craft show

When: Nov. 25

Where: 810 S. Broadway, Community Building

Phone: (785) 258-2115

Web site: www.skyways.org/towns/Herington

Junction City:

What: Christmas Holiday Kick-off and Parade

When: Nov. 24

Where: Sixth and Washington Streets, Heritage Park

Phone: (785) 762-2632

Manhattan:

What: Pleasures: Kansas Printmakers and The Teapot Show

When: Now to Jan. 13, 2007

Where: 406 Poyntz Ave., Strecker-Nelson Gallery

Phone: (785) 537-2099

Web site: www.strecker-nelsongallery.com

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What: Homemade for the Holidays Arts and Craft Show

When: Nov. 25

Where: Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park

Phone: (785) 293-5712

...

What: Mayor's Tree Lighting and Parade

When: Nov. 27

Where: 1300 Moro St.

Phone: (785) 776-8050

Web site: www.aggieville.org

...

What: Printmaking workshop for adults. Learn how to create linoleum block prints suitable for seasonal greeting cards.

When: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 30

Where: 14th and Anderson Streets, Beach Museum of Art

Cost: \$5 per person, reservations required

Phone: (785) 532-7718

Web site: www.k-state.edu/bma

...

What: "The Hollywood Nutcracker." A funny, sophisticated, joie de vivre version of the quintessential holiday treat that is wholesome enough for 3-year-olds.

When: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1

Where: McCain Auditorium, Kansas State University

Tickets: Public \$24-\$28, students and children \$12 to \$14, military, seniors and faculty \$22 to \$26

Phone: (785) 532-6428

Web site: www.ksu.edu/mccain

Onaga:

What: Christmas Frenzy. Hayrack rides, bonfire and cocoa at the park tree lighting, and carols.

When: Nov. 26

Where: Downtown and city park

Phone: (785) 889-4540

Topeka:

What: Piecing It Together: Selected Quilts from the Kansas Museum of History

When: Now to Feb. 18, 2007

Where: 6425 SW 6th Ave., Kansas Museum of History

Phone: (785) 272-8681

Web site: www.kshs.org

Salina:

What: Anne Murray in concert

When: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1

Where: 800 The Midway, Salina Bicentennial Center

Cost: \$35.50 and \$42.50, all seats are reserved

...

What: Holiday Open House

When: Dec. 2

Where: 242 S. Santa Fe, Salina Art Center

Phone: (785) 827-1431

Web site: www.salinaartcenter.org

...

What: Holidays in the Heartland

When: Dec. 2

Where: 211 W. Iron, Smoky Hill Museum

Phone: (785) 309-5776

Web site: www.smokyhill-museum.org

...

What: "Annie"

When: Dec. 1-10

Where: 303 E. Iron, Salina Community Theatre

Phone: (785) 827-3033

Web site: www.salina-theatre.com

Wamego:

What: Lighted Christmas Parade and Park Lighting Celebration

When: Nov. 25

Where: Downtown and city park

Phone: (877) 292-6346

Web site: www.visit-wamego.com

...

What: "Columbian Christmas." Annual Christmas musical production.

When: Dec. 1-3, 7-10 and 14-17

Where: Columbian Theatre, 521 Lincoln Ave.

Phone: (800) 456-2029

Web site: www.columbian-theatre.com

Beach museum offers holiday workshop

By Brandi Eilert

Kansas State University

MANHATTAN, Kan. — The Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University is livening up the holiday season with its annual Holiday Family Art Workshop from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 3.

Families are encouraged to bring their children to create holiday cards and small gifts. Participants

may bring personal items, such as photographs, to make their creations unique. The event is sponsored by the Student Friends of the Beach Museum of Art.

"Seeing the children's faces light up when they create things really pulls on your heartstrings," said Jake Perkinson, sophomore in fine arts, Salina, and president of the Student Friends of the Beach Museum of Art.

"It's really heartwarming to be a part of helping them make the gifts."

...

Admission is \$5 per person, and Beach Buddies get in for half-price. Reservations are not required.

The Beach Museum of Art, 14th Street and Anderson Avenue, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesdays through Fridays and from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Admission is free, and complimentary visitor parking is available adjacent to the facility. More information about the museum is available at <http://www.k-state.edu/bma>

For more information about the workshop, call the museum at (785) 532-7718.

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